

Written Only Proponent Testimony in Support of SCR 1614: Supporting Kansas farmers and ranchers in the Rattlesnake Creek basin.

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, February 17, 2020

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Good morning Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee, my name is Josh Roe, and I am with the Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA). KCGA represents more than 1,200 members on state and national levels on legislative and regulatory issues and actively works with other organizations to maximize the voice of Kansas corn producers. KCGA stands in support of this resolution which urges a collaborative, nonregulatory approach to resolving the impairment in the Rattlesnake Creek basin.

Agricultural producers across the state, especially in this region, continue to improve yields using less water due to advancements in technology and voluntary water conservation measures. KCGA is supportive of all voluntary measures allowing water rights holders to manage and conserve their water resources. KCGA members and staff have been and will continue to be engaged in this issue until the impairment claim is resolved and moving forward in the future. We support current plans that would allow augmentation to move forward, and we are poised to assist in efforts to obtain funding for further voluntary conservation efforts. A prime example of Kansas Corn's involvement in water conservation measures is our sponsorship of Water Technology Farms across the state. Kansas Corn is one of the largest contributing partners to this effort.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in the state of Kansas, but in these rural areas of Stafford, Pawnee, Edwards, Kiowa, Ford, Clark, Barton, Rice, Pratt and Reno counties, it's not only the largest driver, but the absolute primary driver, determining the health of all other sectors. Regulatory approaches to resolving this claim that call for water reductions across the board will have drastic negative impacts on the local economy, with ripple effects across the state.

Thank you once again for allowing me to provide this testimony on behalf of our members.

